

Message Text

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 SCS-03 FBO-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02

AID-05 USSS-00 SCA-01 /100 W
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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 001

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5872

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINTS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 5: ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS TAKE ON NEW
LIFE; MILITARY SITUATION STAGNATES

REF: BEIRUT 5852

1. SUMMARY: AFTER UNINSPIRING START OF ARAB LEAGUE MEDIATION
EFFORT WITH UNSUCCESSFUL CEASEFIRE "AGREEMENT" (SITREP JULY 4),
BEIRUT SURPRISED BY MEETING JULY 4 AT SOFAR UNDER AL AUSPICES,
BRINGING TOGETHER MOST MAJOR PARTIES TO CONFLICT. SECOND
MEETING EXPECTED JULY 5. DE FACTO PARTITION NOW WELL ATO TED
AS KATAEB ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS IN EAST BEIRUT FUNCTIONS AS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EVERYTHING BUT NAME. TELL ZAATAR REMAINS
TENSE, BUT CHRISTIANS IN CONTROL OF ALL BUT POCKETS OF
RESISTANCE. FIGHTING ELSEWHERE
INDECISIVE. ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPLY OF CHRISTIAN SIDE NOW
BEING MORE OPENLY DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

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2. NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE JULY 4 SURPRISE MEETING AT SOFAR JOINING
SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD AT HEAD OF AL MEDIATION TEAM,
SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL HALIM KHADDAM, AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF BOTH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND RIGHTIST LEBANESE FRONT. AL

GROUP ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED RETURN CAIRO JULY 4 BUT INSTEAD CAME DIRECTLY FROM DAMASCUS AFTER MEETING WITH LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD, WHO EVIDENTLY CONTINUES HIS SOMEWHAT ISOLATED MEDIATION EFFORTS THERE. RADIO SILENCE ON MEETING GUARDED BY STATIONS OF ALL PARTIES, BUT IT APPEARS TO HAV BEEN ATTENDED ALSO BY YASIR ARAFAT WHO HAD RETURNED TO LEBANON BY SEA THROUGH SIDON ON JULY 3 AND HAS SINCE MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL PALESTINIANS AND KAMAL JUNBLATT. KATAEB POLITBURO MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI, IN SYRIA EARLIER JULY FOR CONSULTATION WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, MADE IT BACK TO SOFAR IN TIME. MEETING SAID TO BE PRELIMINARY TO POLITICAL TALKS AMONG LEBANESE LEFT AN RIGHT, PALESTINIANS, AND SYRIANS. SECOND MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 5. CHRISTIANS REPORTEDLY SAYING REALLPOLITICAL DIALOGUE ONLY POSSIBLE IF CAIRO ACCORDS ADHERED TO AND PALESTINIANS SAYING THERE CAN BE NO DIALOGUE UNTIL ATTACK ON TELL ZAATAR STOPS. LEBANESE LEFT SHOWS SIGNS OF DISSATISFACTION OVER ITS NON-REPRESENTATION AT JULY 4 MEETING WHICH REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED TELL ZAATAR AS MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. ON SECONDARY LEVEL, AL DEPUTY SEC GEN KHOLI AND PEACEKEEPING FORCE CHIEF OF STATE COL. CHEDID MET PIERRE GEMAYEL WHO RENEWED HIS DEM JRTTOGAT PALESTINIANS RETURN TO THEIR OWN NATIONAL OBJECTIVE AND BE RESETTLED IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

3. FROM LATE REPORT JULY 5 WE UNDERSTAND AL HOPES TO ORGANIZE CEASEFIRE AT TELL ZAATAR TODAY, BUT THIS IS REPORTEDLY JEOPARDIZED BY MID-MORNING JULY 5 REPORTS OF PALESTINIAN ATTACK ON CHEKKA, COASTAL VILLAGE AT NORTHERN END OF CHRISTIAN-DOMINATED TERRITORY SOUTH OF TRIPOLI.

4. CHRISTIANS IN WEST BEIRUT INCREASINGLY DISTURBED OVER CONTINUED SIGNS OF DE FACTO PARTITION. RAYMOND EDDE ADDRESSEES YET ANOTHER LIST OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS, THIS TIME TO MARONITE "KFOUR FRONT," SAYING CHRISTIANS DARE NOT ANSWER ACCUSATIONS ON THEIR PARTITION PLANS. DAR AL-AMAL ORGANIZATION SET UP BY KATAEB SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF CHRISTIAN HELD AREAS STILL NOT CALLED A GOVERNMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT EAST BEIRUT SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS FAR MORE DEVELOPED THAN IN WEST BEIRUT. BRANCHES FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, TAXATION, ETC., OPERATING AND LEBANESE IN RIGHTIST-CONTROLLED AREAS SPEAKING OPENLY OF "DECENTRALIZATION" AND "REGIONALIZATION," IF NOT YET OF EXPLOSIVE TERM "PARTITION."

5. FR TUTOJS "CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT" OF FEBRUARY 14 ONCE AGAIN UNDER ATTACK, THIS TIME BY "ASSOCIATION OF THE ANCIENTS OF MAKASSED" WHICH CALLS DOCUMENT " AN AMALGAM OF CONTRADICTORY IDEAS." GROUP SAYS DOCUMENT IS INAPPLICABLE AND FRANGIE COMMITTED NEW ERROR WHEN HE MADE IT BASIS HIS RECENT MESSAGE TO AL.

6. FIGHTING AT TELL ZAATAR IS VIRTUALLY OVER WITH FINAL REDOUBT TAKEN AND ONLY POCKETS OF RESISTANCE REMAINING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAJORITY REMAINING DEFENDERS HAVE SURRENDERED. RED CROSS, ON REQUEST OF BOTH SIDES, HAS UNDERTAKEN EVACUATION OF WOUNDED AND WE UNDERSTAND SOME 200 PALESTINIAN WOUNDED BROUGHT OUT OF TELL ZAATAR AND DELIVERED TO RED CROSS ON JULY 3 AND 4. PALESTINIANS CLAIM AL DEPUTY SEC GEN HASSAN KHOLI HAD ARRANGED WITH RED CROSS FOR TRANSPORT OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS TO MUSEUM SECTOR FROM WHERE THEY CAN REACH SABRA QAMP, BUT RIGHTIST MUTE ON SUBJECT. WESTERN EYEWITNESS WHO TOOK CONSIDERABLE RISK OF CROSSING "GREEN LINE" FROM RIGHTIST SIDE SAYS IT DOUBTFUL RIGHTISTS HAVE SUFFERED MORE THAN 100 CASUALTIES IN ENTIRE TELL ZAATAR BATTLE. (YESTERDAY AL REPRESENTATIVE, SABRI AL-KHOULI, WAS SHOT AT WHILE CROSSING HERE.) EYEWITNESS SAYS CAMP TOTALLY SURROUNDED FOR LAST FEW DAYS AND CHRISTIANS DID NOT NEED MAKE FINAL ASSAULT AS CAMP COMPLETELY CUT OFF AND CHRISTIANS DOMINATED CAMP FROM TALAT EL MIR. KATAEB LEADERSHIP SAYING IT PLANS CLEAN OUT NABAA NEXT, AND MANY SHIITE INHABITANTS REPORTED LEAVING AREA. NABAA IS UNDER CONTROL OF LEFTIST AND PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS, AND IS LAST REMAINING NON-CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE IN EAST BEIRUT.

7. IN BEIRUT AREA, KATAEB SAYS INFILTRATION EFFORTS OF "PALESTINIANS AND THEIR MERCENARIES" HAVE BEEN REPULSED ALONG CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION LINE. ACHRAFIYYAH STILL UNDER BOMBARDMENTS FROM NABAA AND FIREFIGHTS CONTINUE ALONG BECHARA EL-KHOURY AXIS. VILLEN FIGHTING CONTINUES IN ALEY DISTRICT ON THE ROAD TO ARAY AND KAHALE. LEFTIST CLAIM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE TAKEN VILLAGE OF ARAYA IS APPARENTLY FALSE. VILLAGE OF BSOUSS AND KAHALE ALSO INVOLVED IN FIGHTING. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS, HUGE FIRE OF NIGHT JULY 3 AND 4 WAS NOT AT TELL ZAATAR BUT WAS BURNING OF WOODS AROUND ARAYA. VOICE OF PALESTININE ANNOUNCES ANOTHER LARGE FOREST FIRE NEAR JDAIDE FOLLOWING PALESTINIAN BOMBARDMENT OF SABTIE.

8. ELSEWHERE, LEFTIST SOURCES CLAIM SYRIAN ARMY ATTACKED JOINT PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST GROUPS JULY 4 IN BEKAA. LEFTISTS MAKE UNSUBSTANTIATED AND PROBABLY FALSE CLAIM THEY HAVE DESTROYED SYRIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT RAYAK. SYRIAN BLOCKADES OF BAALBECK AND HERMEL CONTINUE. BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE BUT THERE IS NO GROUND ACTION IN NORTH METN OR AT OUYOUN EL SIMANE. IN NORTH LEBANON, MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE BETWEEN TRIPOI AND ZGHORTA AND SOME FIGHTING CONTINUES IN KOURA DISTRICT. DATE REORT OF BATTLE AT CHEKKA, OTED ABOVE, INDICATES NORTH MAY BECOME CENTER OF STRIFE IN COMING DAYS.

9. SAEB SALAM FOLLOWED UP JULY 3 STATEMENT BY FATAH NO. 2 SALAH KHALAF ON ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT TO RIGHTISTS. SALAM SAID NOT ONLY HAVE ISRAELIS SENT 40 TANKS TO JOUNIEH, BUT NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY AND ITS ALLIES HAVE ON SVERAL OCCASIONS

RECEIVED ARMS AND FUNDS FROM ISRAEL VIA CERTAIN LEBANOESE
AMBASSADORS IN EUROPE. AMIN GEMAYEL ALSO REACTED TO KHALAF
STATEMENT, SAYING IT IS "LIE" THAT HE ONCE TOLD KHALAF THAT
WHEREAS HE HAD REFUSED ISRAELI MILITARY AID, CAMILLE CHAMOUN
HAD ACCEPTED IT. FOREIGNER WHO VISITED RIGHTIST HELD AREAS
SAYS CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS MAKING NO BONES ABOUT CARRYING
ISRAELI-SUPPLIED WEAPONS THOUGH SOME
WEAPONS HAVE SERIAL NUMBERS FILED OFF.
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